

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 PM-05 AID-05
IGA-02 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
EB-08 NRC-05 FEAE-00 DODE-00 SS-15 SP-02 /107 W
-----000167 071714Z /41

P 071454Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3218

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS RRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

USERDA HQ WASHDC PRIORITY

USERDA HQ GERMANTOWN PRIORITY

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USIAEA

DEPT PASS IO/SCT

E.O 11652: N/A

TAGS: IAEA TECH, ENRG, PARM, VE

SUBJECT: VENEZUELAN REQUEST FOR ENRICHED URANIUM THROUGH IAEA

REF: CARACAS 8738

1. AGENCY HAS RECEIVED CABLE FROM TABORDA CONFIRMING GOV
ACCEPTANCE IN PRINCIPLE OF POINTS SET FORTH IN MISSION'S
LETTER TO AGNCY, THUS PERMITTING GO-AHEAD ON ISSUANCE
OF BG DOCUMENT, WHICH SHOULD
APPEAR LETER THIS WEEK. MISSION APPRECIATES ASSISTANCE
OF EMBASSY CARACAS IN HELPING TO EXPEDITE ONTHIS
MATTER.

2. AGENCY SECRETARIAT HAS POINTED OUT A POTENTIAL
PROBLEM, HOWEVER, WHICH MISSION BELIEVES SHOULD, IF
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POSSIBLE, BE RESOLVED BEFORE BG CONSIDERATION OF
THIS ITEM ON SEPTMEBER 23. THIS CONCERNS FACT THAT
GOV HAS NOT RPT NOT YET CONCLUDED ITS NPT SAFEGUARDS
AGREEMENT WITH IAEA AS REQUIRED UNDER ARTICLE III.4
OF NPT. FOLLOWING GOV RATIFICATION OF NPT ON
SEPTEMBER 26, 1975, GOV ASSUMED AN OBLIGATION UNDER
THAT ARTICLE TO CONCLUDE NPT SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT
WITH IAEA WITHIN 18 MONTHS, I.E., BY MARCH 26, 1977.

THUS, GOV IS TECHNICALLY IN VIOLATION OF THIS

OBLIGATION, AND AGENCY SECRETARIAT IS CONCERNED THAT THERE WILL BE QUESTIONS RAISED ON THIS ASPECT OF MATTER WHEN FUEL SUPPLY ARRANGEMENT IS CONSIDERED BY BG.

3. THERE IS ALSO POSSIBILITY THAT SOME GOV OFFICIALS ARE UNDER MISTAKEN ASSUMPTION THAT ITS TRILATERAL SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT WITH U.S. AND IAEA SATISFIES NPT REQUIREMENT FOR A SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT. SECRETARIAT NOTED, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT GOV CABLE, INTER ALIA, REFERRED TO "FIRM SUPPORT OF PRINCIPLES OF NPT AND OF SUPPORTIVE TRILATERAL SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT."

4. FOR BACKGROUND PURPOSES, MISSION OBTAINED FOLLOWING DETAILS FROM AGENCY. AGENCY RECEIVED LETTER FROM GOV DATED JANUARY 21, 1976 REQUESTING TEXT OF NPT SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT. AGENCY SENT DRAFT TEXT MARCH 19, 1976, AND, AFTER HEARING NOTHING FURTHER, FOLLOWED UP IN AUGUST WITH REMINDER. CONSULTATIONS ON MATTER WERE HELD DURING IAEA GENERAL CONFERENCE IN RIO DE JANEIRO, IN SEPTEMBER, AT WHICH TIME VENEZUELAN OFFICIALS REQUESTED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON CERTAIN DETAILS. THIS WAS PROVIDED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN DECEMBER 1976, AND AGENCY AGAIN AFTER HEARING NOTHING FURTHER, FOLLOWED UP IN APRIL 1977. GOV FINALLY RESPONDED IN JULY THAT MATTER WAS UNDER STUDY BY AN INTER-MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE.

5. BECAUSE OF POSSIBILITY OF QUESTIONS BEING RAISED AT BG OVER THIS ISSUE, AGENCY SECRETARIAT (ACTING DIRECTOR GENERAL HALL) HAS SENT CABLE TO FORMER VENEZUELAN REPRESENTative AND GOVERNOR FREDDY ARROCHA (WHO AGENCY UNDERSTAND WILL HEAD GOV DELEGATION TO FORTHCOMING GENERAL CONFERENCE) STRESSING IMPORTANCE OF TIMELY ACTION TO CONCLUDE NPT SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT. AGENCY BELIEVES THAT POTENTIAL PROBLEM AT BG COULD BE HEADLED OFF IF GOV WERE TO PROVIDE SOME POSITIVE INDICATION TO AGENCY PRIOR TO BG MEETING SEPTEMBER 23 TO SHOW FORWARD MOVEMENT ON CONCLUDING ITS NPT SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT. THIS WOULD ALLOW SECRETARIAT TO INTRODUCE FUEL SUPPLY ARRANGEMENT AT BG WITH A STATEMENT REPORTING STATUS OF IAEA/VENEZUELA NPT

SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT AND HOPEFULLY TO FORESTALL OR MINIMIZE THEREBY ANY DEBATE OVER THAT ISSUE.

6. IN ADDITION TO FOREGOING CONSIDERATIONS, MISSION BELIEVES THAT GOV CONCLUSION OF NPT SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT WITH IAEA WILL BE AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN CONNECTION WITH ALLOCATION OF U.S. GIFT OF SPECIAL NUCLEAR MATERIAL FOR 1977. WE WOULD FIND IT VERY DIFFICULT OURSELVES TO RECOMMEND ALLOCATING THE GIFT TO A COUNTRY WITH NUCLEAR FACILITIES WHICH HAS FAILED TO COMPLY (EVEN TECHNICALLY) WITH AN IMPORTANT PROVISION OF THE NPT, UNLESS THERE ARE SOME CONVINCING REASONS OR UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES INVOLVED, SINCE SUCH FAILURE CASTS

DOUBTS ON THE SERIOUSNESS OF OTHER TREATY OBLIGATIONS. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TIONS ASSUMED BY THAT GOVERNMENT UNDER NPT. ACCORDINGLY, WE BELIEVE THIS MATTER REQUIRES SOME EARLY ATTENTION TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM, HOPEFULLY BEFORE THE END OF THIS YEAR WHEN THE GIFT ALLOCATION IS USUALLY MADE.

7. IN VIEW FOREGOING, MISSION RECOMMENDS THAT EMBASSY CARACAS BE REQUESTED TO DISCUSS PROBLEM WITH APPROPRIATE GOV OFFICIALS WITH VIEW TOWARD ENCOURAGING EARLY CONCLUSION OF NPT SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT. LABOWITZ

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Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: URANIUM, NUCLEAR ENERGY, PROCUREMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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